

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204409 TOSEC 040100
ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /029 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO:CWMAYNES:OM

APPROVED BY IO/CWMAYNES

S/S:AWOTTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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REF: TOSEC 040098

FOL RPT STATE 104409 ACTION GENEVA 7 MAY 77 QUOTE

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FOR SEN. KENNEDY FROM ACTING SECY TO BE DELIVERED ASAP

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: WHO, PORG, IS, XF

SUBJECT:U.S. VOTE ON WHO BUDGET

1. AS A RESULT OF YOUR CONCERN, WE HAVE REVIEWED MOST CAREFULLY OUR POSITION ON WHO'S 1978 BUDGET. INDEED, WE FULLY SHARE YOUR BELIEF IN THE DESIRABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND, TO THAT END, THE UNITED STATES HAS CONTINUALLY SUPPORTED THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, BOTH THROUGH ASSESSED AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY IN TERMS OF THE FUTURE OF INTER-
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NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, GENERALLY, TO TAKE A REALISTIC ATTITUDE TOWARD BUDGETARY TRENDS WHICH TEND TO SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL.

2. OUR CONCLUSION, THEREFORE, IS THAT IF WE WISH TO PRESERVE BROAD SUPPORT FOR THE WHO, WE WOULD BE MAKING A MISTAKE IF WE OPENED OUR PARTICIPATION TO THE TYPE OF CRITICISM

WHICH WOULD FOLLOW IF WE GAVE UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET. THUS, ALTHOUGH WE EXPECT THE BUDGET TO BE ADOPTED, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO SIGNAL TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AS WELL AS TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS MONITORING THEIR PERFORMANCE AND THEIR PROGRAMS WITH MAXIMUM DILIGENCE.

WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS SIGNAL WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT IS GIVEN, AND THAT WE WILL HAVE THE SAME FAVORABLE EFFECT ON THE BUDGETS OF THE WHO AND OTHER AGENCIES THAT WE BELIEVE WE ACHIEVED WHEN WE VOTED AGAINST THE 1972 AND 1973 WHO BUDGETS.

2. WE HAVE IN ADDITION THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC CONCERNS ABOUT WHO'S 1978 BUDGET WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO OUR PRESENT POSITION:

(A) IF WE VOTE FOR A 12.1 PERCENT INCREASE IN WHO, WE WILL FACE IMMEDIATE PRESSURES FOR SUPPORT OF COMPARABLE LEVELS IN OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PROPOSED 22 PERCENT BIENNUM INCREASE (11 PERCENT A YEAR) IN FAO, WHICH HAS ITS CONFERENCE THIS YEAR.

(B) THE PROPOSED INCREASE SEEMS ESPECIALLY UNWARRANTED BECAUSE WHO DIRECTOR GENERAL HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE THE BUDGET BY APPROXIMATELY 5 MILLION DOLLARS IN SAVINGS AT HEADQUARTERS, BUT CHOSE INSTEAD TO INCLUDE THIS AMOUNT IN A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WITH NO DEFINITE PROJECTS PLANNED AS YET. REDUCTION OF THE PROGRAM BY THIS AMOUNT WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE REDUCED THE INCREASE TO A MORE REASONABLE LEVEL ACCEPTABLE TO US.

(C) WE HAVE JUST MOUNTED AN EFFORT WITH OTHER MAJOR DONORS TO EXERCISE MORE REASONED RESTRAINT IN APPROVING NEW BUDGET LEVELS FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THIS EFFORT WOULD BE BADLY WEAKENED IF WE OFFER NO OBJECTION ON THE FIRST LARGE BUDGET INCREASE CONFRONTING US.

(D) TRADITIONAL PATTERN FOR MAJOR DONORS IN RECENT YEARS IS TO EXPRESS INITIAL CONCERN OVER SPECIALIZED AGENCY BUDGETS DURING PERIOD OF BUDGET PREPARATION, THEN TO ACQUIESCE WITH FAVORABLE VOTE IN FINAL CONFERENCE, USUALLY ON THE GROUNDS THAT WE SHOULD DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. OUR FEAR IS THAT IF THIS PATTERN CONTINUES, DIRECTOR GENERALS WILL NOT UNDERSTAND VERY REAL DANGER FACING UN SYSTEM FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AHEAD OF DONOR UNWILLINGNESS TO PAY ASSESSED BUDGETS OR DONOR EFFORTS TO LOWER THEIR CONTRIBUTION LEVELS.

3. I GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR GETTING IN TOUCH WITH ME ON
THIS MATTER AND HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT US IN
WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO. CHRISTOPHER

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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